Dear Paul, 1/2/98

I dare not even think of anything that scratches! Including my own fingers inside of Andean leather mittens with a fleece lining with which I sleep. I bleed very easily, the skin, outer layer, breaks if it is looked at hard, and if I touch the doorknob with my wrist on entering or leaving my office it can take two covered months to heal!

When Lil finishes the chore she's one and calls me we'll get to the daily doctoring that is necessary. The itching seems to come from two medications that keep me alive. The real problem is in my sleep, despite those mottens. She can apply the prescribed medications better than I can and can reach what I can't reach well.

If your wife is willing I'd love to mail here what I am working on now, Falcing Kennedy: The Dark Side of Sy Hersh. I'm getting toward the end but I suspect I've about 60,000 words on paper.

I have one manuscript now being retyped in Idaho. I've had some done in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and I think other places. Wherever people are willing. I'm broke in some time.

But if you mention this to your wife, please give her to understand that the copy is very dirty, as the letters are. Only the copy also has inesrts.

In order to do what I've been doing I sit down and write w/o taking the time for the outline that would take as long as the writing. The volume, my healthy friends tell me, younger ones, too, is impressive. It is intended as a reqcd for history. But the Hersh book should be commercially acceptable, with editing. One thing that I know would have to come out is referring to his method or technique as Hersh-it. (Anyway you take it is is true.)

I think Mary is capable of being completely honest but it is hard to tell when she may have something else in mind. It is not that she is not honest, it is that she can have something else, not visible, in mind.

I've let your letter stay where Lil sits and read so, yes, we did like that marmelade. But if it has much sugar in it, we should not have it. Pounds. And neither gets much exercise at all.

Hal has not mentioned his health but the last timw we saw him and in your picture he did look different. What is his health problem?

Thanks for the clipping, which was news to me, and for the Times best seller listng. Hersh dropped rapidly. He began #2 at the Times. In the end I may want it by the week, if possible, for say two months. Or until he is off it, if less.

Little Mexican girl is pretty.

What I've been circulating a bit is duplicates of the computer disks after the retyping is corrected. To several colleges almost exclusively.

The way we have worked on the retyping is that the one doing the retyping keeps the diskette, send me one printout, I make corrections and return it for the corrections to be made. That takes care of most of what is not as clear as it should be because the copy is dirty, then I get disks.

On Debra/Lancer, she asked me to do a piece on the LaFontaine fiction and having done a book-length manuscipt I took the time. She said she liked it, then they ~~gest~~ got Evica and it was not used. She said it would be in the next issue and wasn't. I did not hear from either further. I've told her what I think of Evica and of his soliciting a paper on me as a CIA agent. She won't ask more, with or without him. He is subject-matter ignorant but makes on the opposite and I think has come to believe it.

Thanks and have a good year!

Harry

If you could see me you'd understand better and I think get a laugh. I've had to keep both legs up for 20 years and then have been horizontal when I'm not on them. Then I was told to keep the left foot as high as the heart. I use a barstool where I sit in the livingroom and one in my office. So my left foot is as high as the mill. Awkward but can be done and I've been doing it for close to two years now. Doesn't improve the typing, tho!